

Abstract

The present invention is the apparatus and method for producing a plastic sheet having a pattern produced in a layer therein. The plastic sheet is a single layer sheet or a multi-layer sheet. The pattern is produced by mixing two or more plastic extrudants together in a mixer. The pattern is visible in the layer containing the two or more plastic extrudants because at least one of the plastic extrudants is at least partially transparent. The mixer used to produce the pattern includes a housing having an end configured to expel the mixture of the two or more extrudants through a plurality of outlets. The mixer further comprises a rotatable shaft and at least one projection coupled to the shaft and rotatable with the shaft, the at least one projection configured to orient the mixture of the two or more extrudants relative to the plurality of outlets in the housing. The mixer further comprising a thrust bearing configured to couple an end of the shaft to the housing.